

PLAYERS SERIOUS FIGHT AGAINST MR. MERRIAM

Demand for Removal May Be Made to President.

CONGRESSIONAL AID IS SOUGHT

Twenty-five Members to Submit Case.

MUCH PRESSURE LIKELY

Not Only Dismissed Clerks, But Out-riders Take a Hand in the War Against the Director.

A determined fight is to be made upon William Merriam as Director of the Census Bureau. It has been brewing for some time, but has only within the past few days taken definite shape. While those who are preparing the campaign against the Census Director are rather reticent as to their plans, it is known that they hope in a very few days to have made to the President a demand by not less than twenty-five members of Congress for Mr. Merriam's removal.

It is thought by those in charge of this movement that such pressure cannot be overlooked by the President, and that it

must result in a change in the head of the great Census establishment.

Cognizant of the Situation.

Director Merriam is fully aware that he is to be attacked in his official capacity and his removal sought most strenuously in various quarters. As an evidence of this it is pointed out that he showed too much willingness to remain in his present position at a salary of \$5,000 when he has been drawing \$7,500.

His indisposition to discuss in any way the conduct of his office is also referred to by those who seek his removal as a display of knowledge that he does not occupy a very well-fortified position, and must soon confront a most serious problem.

The anti-Merriamites are not confined exclusively to the dismissed clerks and section chiefs of the Census Bureau, although much of the antipathy that exists toward the Director has been aroused by his methods of discharging and reinstating employees in the Bureau.

Cause of Recent Hostility.

The most recent cause for hostility toward Director Merriam was the dismissal on Saturday of about sixty clerks, including many young women, a number of whom were the sole dependance of their families. There were sorrowful times about the Census Office Saturday afternoon. Many had been let out without a moment's warning, without any other means of support, and with no hope of getting other work in the near future.

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CHINESE READY FOR NEW YEAR

Local Celestials Prepare for the Great Holiday.

OBSERVANCE AT THE LEGATION

Said That Minister Wu Will Celebrate on a Larger Scale Than Ever Before.

The Chinese in all parts of the world, and in Washington especially, are making active preparations to celebrate their New Year Day, which this year falls on February 12. The Chinese are not content with celebrating the advent of a new year with one day's festivities; they keep it up for a whole week. And the Chinese New Year is not like its Western prototype. The Christian New Year falls on the first day of January every year, but not so with the turn of the cycle of the Chinese. While their celebration on February 12 this year, next year it may fall on the 6th or 10th, or thereabouts. The Chinese New Year is a movable feast, just as Easter.

The Chinese festival brings with it many old customs and usages. One of them, for instance, that the Chinese give their own person a most thorough cleaning, as well as their household, their oxen and all that belongs to them.

Local Preparations Commenced.

The Chinese residents of this city have already begun with the scouring process and on a visit to the Chinese quarter in this city one may observe how busy they are in their efforts to duly honor the great approaching occasion. Most of the tea shop and Chinese grocery store proprietors have their shops and places papered with bright red wall paper. The Chinese put a great deal of confidence in this color. He thinks it secures away all evil spirits.

Long narrow strips of red paper with Chinese hieroglyphs imprinted on them in gold or black ink are hung about their houses in honor of the first day of the new year. These paper strips contain magic words and prayers and poetry, and are also designed to bring good luck and keep away the evil.

Part of the Chinese Lily.

The Chinese Lily plays a prominent part in the superstitious belief of the Chinese. It blooms about this time of the year, or perhaps a little later. The Chinese regard the plant with almost veneration and count its buds almost daily—for so many buds, so many years of happiness. Chinese lilies can be seen in almost every Chinese laundry and can be bought at any of the Chinese shops.

New Year Day in China has this one feature in common with that observed in this country, that presents among members of the family and friends are in order. Even now Chinese may be seen visiting the various emporiums in the city scanning the counters for suitable New Year gifts. Members of the Chinese Legation are not exempt from this custom, and they, too, are seen visiting the fashionable shops, buying jewelry and other articles for their friends. They always attract attention wherever they go, and they usually wear a light blue tunic and little cap with coral button.

Must Close Out Debts.

But the most important feature of the Chinese New Year is the aspect which the business man puts upon it. It is the rule that the Chinese who have any money outstanding for merchandise, loans, or anything else, to make his best endeavors to collect it within the New Year's week, for if he does not succeed he has no right to claim it after the New Year. The Chinese in this city are at present busily engaged in this most laudatory custom, and judging from what the women do to the matter, money is just as dear to the Chinese heart as it is to any other. They hate to part with it.

Cattle and Wheat Affected.

The range cattle in Nebraska, Western Kansas, and Oklahoma suffered severely, and many are dying. The long period of extraordinarily mild weather took them far from shelter, and measures for their protection were to some extent neglected.

The winter wheat in this section was damaged as there was insufficient snow covering.

Blizzard in Michigan.

Last night a gale carrying heavy snow was raging through Michigan with a blizzard in the upper peninsula, and the thermometer was dropping rapidly from the straits to Memphis.

ADIRONDACK FLOODS LIKELY.

Unless Arrested by Cold Snap Waters Will Sweep Country.

SARATOGA, N. Y., Jan. 27.—Unless a cold wave arrests the rush of surface water before sunset, a flood may be expected from the mountainous section of the Adirondacks.

Sunday's thawing temperature was followed by a heavy rain which began at 2 o'clock this morning and continued till after daybreak.

This has caused the winter's accumulation of snow to melt, threatening surface water freshets of a destructive character.

It cannot affect the ice harvest, as substantially all of the ice houses are filled.

BOY DIES IN BLIZZARD.

Fell While Trying to Make Way Against Storm.

HUNTINGTON, Ore., Jan. 27.—Grover F. Locke, aged thirteen, son of S. Locke, a stockman and broker of Huntington, was frozen to death in the blizzard last Friday morning.

The boy had started for his father's ranch, twelve miles distant. On the journey his horse refused to face the storm and young Locke started to travel the remaining distance on foot.

He had gone only a short distance when he fell face downward in the snow. His body was found yesterday in this position by a searching party.

Street Railway Consolidation.

LOGANSPOUT, Ind., Jan. 27.—George J. Mariott, of Indianapolis, owner of the Logansport Street Railway, has effected a consolidation with the Kokomo Street Railway Company, and the consolidated company will at once connect the systems with an interurban electric line. The consideration is not made public.

To Institute French Regatta.

PARIS, Jan. 27.—Henri Deutsch, founder of the aeronaut prize for a dirigible balloon, has promised financial backing for the organization of a French regatta, like that held at Henley, England, every year. He proposes to hold the regatta at Mennan-on-Seine. American colleges will be invited to compete.

LEGACIES FOR INSTITUTIONS.

Boston Woman Remembers Catholic Homes and Hospitals.

GEN. WOOD NOT TO BE HEARD.

Ways and Means Committee Changes Mind as to Cuban Inquiry.

The House Committee on Ways and Means will not hear Gen. Leonard Wood on the subject of tariff concessions for Cuba. It does not think it necessary that General Wood should be called before it to make a statement in view of the information it has already had furnished it along the line of the inquiry as to Cuba's needs. The intention of the wish of the committee is supposed to have been communicated to General Wood through Secretary Root, who comes in contact with the committee, and is a convenient means of conveying a message of this sort under circumstances of this kind. The committee have allowed it to be known that they were satisfied with the presentation already made of the affirmative of the proposition that Cuba should be granted tariff concessions by the United States.

They also said that, in their opinion, General Wood could add little to the sum total of information which has been generously laid before them. His statements would savor, they thought, too much of general opinions which many others in Cuba and the United States could give them equally well if they were in need of them. The committee expressed a desire to have Major Tasker H. Bliss, the army officer, who is the Acting Collector of the Port of Havana, appear before them to consult from his official knowledge of the amount and character of the exports and imports of the island, the information which the committee could not gain in any other way. Beyond Major Bliss's testimony, the committee decided that there was no need of calling anyone to Washington from Cuba.

In some quarters it is said that the majority members of the committee are somewhat in fear that the argument for reciprocity is being made too strong, and that General Wood is being used too strongly. There are also those who are so ungracious as to say that the committee, having already made up their minds to take a position against reciprocity, are not like to have General Wood come before them, with all the authority of his well known intimate relations with the President, to argue against reciprocity. The President's view of the situation and the duty of this country in the premises with great force and ingenuity, the members of the committee are supposed to consider the easiest way out of the possible contempts was to dismiss the general in advance of his coming. He was, however, postponed on account of illness, and he desired to present his views in a written statement.

Small, Very Small.

The comparatively small shipments of manufactured articles to over-sea ports is generally explained by the fact that the home demand is so large as to almost exhaust the supply. Manufacturers, it is said, are not looking for a foreign market for their products at the present time. This is particularly true of the iron and steel industries. There is some forward movement of grain on the freighters of the regular steamship lines, but the rates obtaining at present render any satisfactory profit out of the question.

A Striking Difference.

Last year steamships were constantly leaving this port with 100,000 to 200,000 bushels a trip. Now they have barely enough to sink them to within six feet of their load water line. Tramp steamships have forsaken this port entirely, and the regular steamship lines are laying off their freight carriers.

The North German Lloyd has had no freight steamship sailing from this port between February 6 and February 27.

These values added to that of farms, give the total value of farm property \$135,533,566, an increase of \$7,660,000, since 1890. The acreage was increased from 2,562,099 in 1890 to 2,546,956 in 1900.

KENTUCKY OIL STRIKE.

Pittsburg Firm Develops Valuable Property in Bath County Fields.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Jan. 27.—The Pittsburg firm of Coffey & Galey, of Pittsburg, has struck it rich in the Bath County oil fields.

Today they start to pump twelve wells simultaneously into a 50,000 barrel tank, just completed, the only tank of its size in Kentucky, and one of the three largest in the world.

A Michigan firm paid \$10,000 for the farm of 130 acres covered by the lease of Coffey & Galey, and can get but one-sixteenth of the profits on their investment in return.

Twenty-eight wells have been sunk in this field in the past three months, and every one is rich with oil.

WRECKERS SAVE BARK.

Italian Vessel Floated Again, Although Leaking Slightly.

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 27.—The Italian bark, Virginia de la Guardia, which was ashore at Wash Woods on this coast Saturday night, has been hauled off by the Merritt tug Rescue, which towed her here. She is leaking slightly, but will probably be towed to Philadelphia.

Some of the ship's company have already arrived here. All abandoned the bark and were landed by the life-savers in their boat, which made four trips and landed the crew of thirteen men with all their baggage.

ROBBED AND CREMATED.

Charred Body Bound With Wire Taken From Flames.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Jan. 27.—Michael Sweeney, of Columbus, was burned to death last night in a flag shanty of a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, one-half mile west of Girard.

It is suspected that he had been robbed of his month's pay, which he drew the day before, and that after he had been tied to a chair with wire, the shanty was set on fire.

The flames were discovered by the crew of the second section of eastbound freight No. 84, E. J. Chisholm, the brakeman, who was riding on the engine with Engineer Green, saw the flames first, and jumped off the engine, kicking in the door of the shanty, and saving the crew, burning him about the face and head.

The suspicion of robbery and murder arose from the fact that wire was coiled about the charred remains of Sweeney when they were finally drawn out.

UNKNOWN STEAMER ASHORE.

Life-Saving Crew Now at Work Taking Off Crew.

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 27.—This morning at 2:30 o'clock a steamer, the identity of which is not yet known, went ashore between Gulf Shoals and Little Kinnikeet Life-Saving Stations, on the North Carolina coast.

At 9:30 this morning the life-savers at the scene reported that they had gotten a line to her, and it is conjectured that they will shortly begin to land the crew in the breeches buoy.

The steamer is believed to be light, is pretty well in shore, and as only about a nineteen-mile gale is blowing there is hope that she may be saved.

Arkansas Jail Delivery.

FORT SMITH, Ark., Jan. 27.—The prisoners in the county jail here (attempted to) escape at noon yesterday. As a result, Jesse Jones, a negro charged with forgery, is dead, and Jailer N. D. Knapp is injured.

Harry Folson, Samuel Blain, and Andy Limerick, Ireland, \$1,000 to the Oblate Fathers' Novitiate, at Dublin, \$1,000 to the trustees of Boston College for two scholarships.

No Civil Trials for Rebels.

DURHAM, N. Car., Jan. 27.—The Governor of North Carolina has announced that in future Nativists will be tried by court-martial instead of in the civil courts.

POOR OUTLOOK FOR SHIPPING

Light Movement of Freight From New York.

NO IMPROVEMENT IS VISIBLE

Tramp Steamers Have Abandoned the Metropolitan, and Many Regular Boats Have Been Laid Off.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—At no time in recent years, according to steamship men, has the situation been so generally unsatisfactory as it is at the present time. Of tonnage there is a plenty, but little merchandise is offering, and as a result rates are at the lowest ebb, vessels are running with barely enough cargo in their holds to make them seaworthy, and some lines even have withdrawn many of their freight steamships from the North Atlantic service for the time being.

The worst of the situation is that at the present time there seems to be a poor outlook for any improvement. It will not be until next summer anyway and even then the improvements depend almost absolutely upon the crops.

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The comparatively small shipments of manufactured articles to over-sea ports is generally explained by the fact that the home demand is so large as to almost exhaust the supply. Manufacturers, it is said, are not looking for a foreign market for their products at the present time. This is particularly true of the iron and steel industries. There is some forward movement of grain on the freighters of the regular steamship lines, but the rates obtaining at present render any satisfactory profit out of the question.

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